



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

59 Dental Training Squadron
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COLONEL JOHN A. SAFAR

Colonel John A. Safar is the Commander of the 59th Dental Squadron at Dunn Clinic, Lackland AFB, TX. The 59th Dental Squadron provides premier dental healthcare service to 22,000 AD beneficiaries at 4 clinics, accomplishes dental processing for 43,000 basic trainees annually, and supports Air Force Expeditionary Force mission by providing highly-trained professionals for global engagement. It also provides expedited care for Special Warfare Airmen Program and rated personnel, facilitates care for 4,000 Defense Language Institute students annually from over 100 countries, and contributes to training requirements of 6 residencies, 2 fellowships and 60 weeks of continuing education courses annually. Col Safar attended the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, Texas from 1985 to 1987 and graduated with a B.S. degree in biology. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry in June 1991 before entering active duty in the USAF Dental Corps as a direct accession officer. Col Safar was the Junior Dental Officer of the Year for AFMC in 1993 and the Dental Officer of the Year for AMC in 2007. He is a board certified comprehensive general dentist, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visitor from 2013-2016, American Board of General Dentistry Director and Examiner from 2014-2017, and currently the President of the AF constituency of AGD Region 17. Col Safar and his late wife Ginger have a daughter, Sarah Ann, age 26 and a son, Matthew, age 21.



EDUCATION:

- 2015 Mastership, Academy of General Dentistry
- 2006 Fellowship, Academy of General Dentistry
- 2004 Intermediate Executive Skills Course, Shepard AFB, Texas
- 2002 Dental Leadership Course, Shepard AFB, Texas
- 2000 Diplomate, Federal Services Board and American Board of General Dentistry
- 1998 Advanced Education in General Dentistry II residency; Keesler Medical Center, Keesler AFB, MS
- 1991 DDS; Baylor College of Dentistry; Dallas, Texas; Dean's List
- 1987 Bachelor of Science Degree (Biology); Magna Cum Laude undergrad; University of Texas at Dallas; Richardson, Texas

Current as of April 2020

ASSIGNMENTS:

- July 2019-Present Commander, 59th Dental Squadron, JBSA-Lackland, TX
- Jun 2017- July 2019 AEGD-2 Training Officer; 59th Dental Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, TX
- Aug 2015–Jun 2017 Commander, 21st Dental Squadron, Peterson AFB, CO
- Aug 2008–Aug 2015 AEGD-1 Program Director; 99th Dental Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV
- Jun 2006–Aug 2008 AEGD-1 Program Director; 375th Dental Squadron, Scott AFB, IL
- Jul 2003–Jun 2006 AEGD-1 Deputy Director; 375th Dental Squadron, Scott AFB, IL
- Jul 2000–Jul 2003 Restorative Element Leader; 52th Dental Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany
- Jul 1998–Jul 2000 Chief of Endodontics; 10th Dental Squadron, USAF Academy, Colorado
- Jun 1996–Jul 1998 AEGD II Resident; 81st Dental Squadron, Keesler AFB, MS
- Aug 1991–May 1996 General Dental Officer; 72th Dental Squadron, Tinker AFB, OK

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters
- Outstanding Base Unit Medal with nine oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Air Force Achievement Medal
- 1993 AFMC Junior Dental Officer of the Year
- 2007 AMC Dental Officer of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS:

- Colonel 31 May 2009
- Lieutenant Colonel 31 May 2003
- Major 31 May 1997
- Captain 31 May 1991

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION:

- 2004 Air War College by seminar
- 2001 Air Command and Staff College by correspondence
- 1994 Squadron Officers School by correspondence
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AFFILIATION WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Academy of General Dentistry (AF region 17 President)
- American Dental Educators Association

LICENSURE:

- 1991 – Present; Texas #16740

PROFESSIONAL GOALS:

- Program Director for a civilian AEGD-1 program or associate professor of a dental college
- Research Committee for CODA
- Become involved in organized dentistry to benefit the future of the general dentistry profession

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Antibacterial Properties of Three Different Implant Metals- Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry Mar – Jul 1990
- Effect of Saliva Contamination on the Bond of Dentin to Resin-Modified Glass Ionomer Cement, AEGD-2 Residency, Keesler AFB, MS May - Sep 97

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

- *Berry, Charles W. PhD **; *Moore, Tera J. BS ***; *Safar, John A. DDS ***; *Henry, Clay A. DDS, PhD*; *Wagner, Martin J. PhD*, Antibacterial Activity of Dental Implant Metals, *Implant Dentistry* Spring 1992; 1(1):59-65.
- *J A Safar*, Subcutaneous Emphysema During Removal of an Overhang, *Gen Dent* 1995; Sep-Oct; 43(5):424-6.
- *J A Safar*, R D Davis, J D Overton, Effect of Saliva Contamination on the Bond of Dentin to Resin-Modified Glass Ionomer Cement, *Operative Dentistry* 1999; 24:351-357.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

- “Antibacterial Properties of Three Implant Metals”, Table Clinic presentation at the Dallas Mid-Winter Dental Conference, Jan 91, and at the Texas Dental Conference, May 91.
- “Advances in Endodontic Surgical Treatment”, SRLS, Keesler AFB, MS, Sep 1997.
- “Effect of Saliva Contamination on the Bond of Dentin to Resin-Modified Glass Ionomer Cement”, IADR Annual Meeting Table Clinic, Minneapolis, MN, March 1998.
- “Bleaching and Microabrasion”. USAF Academy Annual Dental Symposium, CO, Oct 1998, and at the Peterson Area Dental Lab Workshop, Peterson AFB, CO, Apr 1999.
- “Techniques to Increase the longevity of Fixed Partial Dentures”, USAF Academy Annual Dental Symposium, CO, Apr 2000.
- “Cracked Tooth Syndrome”, Southern Nevada Dental Society, NV, Feb 2010
- “Humanitarian Mission to Belize”, Southern Nevada Dental Society, NV, Nov 2014
- Mentored and Co-wrote 52 table clinics presented by AEGD-1 and AEGD-2 residents at the Thomas Hinman Dental Meeting, Atlanta, GA, and California Dental Association, Anaheim, CA.

AEGD LECTURES PRESENTED:

- Photography lecture/LAB
- Overview of Comprehensive Restorative Treatment Planning
- Treatment Planning Exercise
- Treatment Planning Board Case Presentation
- Isolation: Operative Field

- Minimal Invasive Dentistry, Caries Risk Assessment, Medical Model of Caries
- Modern Amalgam Alloys, Complex Amalgams
- Complex Amalgam Lab
- Amalgam Bonding
- Anterior Composites, Class IV, Diastema Closure
- Class IV Composite Lab
- Dentin Bonding Agents
- Etiology of Class V Lesions - Restorative Options
- Glass Ionomer, RMGIC, Compomers
- Composite Resins, Posterior composites
- Restoration of Endodontically Treated Teeth
- Cracked tooth Syndrome
- Vital Bleaching and Microabrasion
- Principles of Anterior Esthetics
- Veneer Lecture
- Pulpal Issues: Bonding, Bases, Liners, Varnishes, Cements
- Dentin Hypersensitivity

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Gardening, fishing, and cooking.